

Wyoming Department of Ag: the State and Producers Safeguard Health

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (January 28, 2014) – Wyoming state agencies and federal partners have been involved in investigations at Western Sugar Cooperative in Lovell since the tragic death of an employee on January 4th. Western Sugar Cooperative, working with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) embargoed all products from the facility for human consumption. No products intended for human consumption were distributed.

Other products, limited to beet tailings and pulp, which are used as livestock feed, have been the subject of a voluntary recall by Western Sugar Cooperative. These products have been accounted for at this time. Wyoming, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the FDA, working cooperatively, determined that there is no risk to human and animal health because of this incident.

“The health and safety of the public is paramount to all involved - the Lovell community, Wyoming’s ag community, the local producers, the company, and our state. The cooperative effort involving federal agencies in the wake of this tragedy has been professional and effective at protecting the public,” Jason Fearneyhough, Director of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture said.

Western Sugar Cooperative, Wyoming’s cattle producers, the State of Wyoming and federal agencies are taking all appropriate actions to protect human and animal health. In an effort to assist producers most impacted by this incident, animals that may have been exposed to the feed products have been identified. Cooperation between the State of Wyoming, USDA and FDA has led to an appropriate plan to help producers who have concerns about short-term marketability of animals that may have been exposed.

Western Sugar Cooperative, producers and the State of Wyoming will continue to take a leadership role and work with the FDA, USDA and other federal entities to help the local community work past the tragedy and loss.

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